

# CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

# 1949



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Clare Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1949 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions, and Vital Statistics of the Clare Rural District.

The Report is prepared on the lines indicated in Circular 2/50 issued by the Ministry of Health.

As this is my last Annual Report I take the opportunity of thanking the Council and the Staff, particularly those associated with the Public Health Department, for the help and assistance I have received during my 28 years of Office.

ARTHUR MORGAN,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

July, 1950

## GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£33,075
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£122
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,953
Estimated Population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,326

The whole district is essentially rural in character and there are no industries except those directly or indirectly associated with agriculture.

The parishes with most population, in order of precedence, are Clare (1,300), Wickhambrook (800), Kedington (752), Cavendish (716), Hundon (592), Stoke (433), Withersfield (416), Cowlinge (329). None of the others is over 300. The smallest are Little Bradley and Wixoe (56 and 95 respectively). Therefore, out of an estimated population of 8,326 persons approximately 5,338 are concentrated in eight parishes and 3,000 divided among the remaining 16. In addition most of the villages are fairly widely separated from one another so, having regard to all the circumstances, it will be appreciated that schemes of water supply and sewerage present certain economic difficulties.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### *Live Births :*

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	80	54	134
Illegitimate	..	...	...	...	8	2	10
Totals					88	56	144

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	17.7
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	16.7

### *Stillbirths :*

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals					—	3	3

Rate per thousand total (live and still births)	...	...	20.4
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### *Deaths :*

	Male	Female	Total
	61	50	111
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	13.3
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	11.7

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals					4	1	5

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	34.7
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	37.2
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil

	1944	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	21	11	19	17	20	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil

	1939	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49
Birth Rates	13.8	13.7	14.4	15.8	17.5	37.8	17.2	23.0	19.0	18.6	17.7
Death Rates	15.4	16.8	13.5	15.6	14.5	13.4	13.8	12.6	15.1	13.9	13.3

Table classifying Deaths under age groups :—

Ages			Male		Female		Total
Under 1 year	...	...	4	...	1	...	5
1 and under 2	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
2 " 5	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
5 " 15	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
15 " 25	...	...	—	...	1	...	1
25 " 35	...	...	3	...	—	...	3
35 " 45	...	...	1	...	2	...	3
45 " 55	...	...	6	...	—	...	6
55 " 65	...	...	5	...	5	...	10
65 " 75	...	...	17	...	7	...	24
75 and over	...	...	25	...	34	...	59
Totals ...			61		50		111

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### *PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :*

(a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.

(b) Whole time Sanitary Inspectors.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. A. Smith (appointed 1st November, 1944). Mr. Smith is an Associate Member of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers, an Associate Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute and a Member of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. D. B. Jones (appointed 1st November, 1945). Mr. Jones holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board, and is an Associate Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.—Mr. Jones left the Council's service in May, 1950, and, at the time of writing, no successor has been appointed.

### *OFFICES :*

Towards the end of June your Staff moved to the newly acquired accommodation at Stonehall, Clare. The centralisation of offices was long overdue and much time can now be saved by having immediate contact with other departments.

### *HOSPITALS :*

There are no Hospitals in the area.

### *WATER SUPPLIES :*

The three main sources of supply are at Clare, Hundon, and Great Wratting.

#### *Clare :*

General overhaul of the two oil engines and pumps takes place every six months to ensure as far as possible a constant supply of water to the Parish of Clare. To supply an approximate population of 1,252 persons both pumps must necessarily be used to their maximum output and, apart from supplying the normal demands of the new Council Houses at Clare, there is little water to spare for expansion of this scheme.

The estimated amount of water abstracted from these two boreholes during the 12 months ending 31st October, 1949, amounted to 10,027,556 gallons.

Samples sent for analysis show the water to be fit for drinking purposes although rather hard. The total hardness being 26.44 degrees in grains per gallon.

Treatment of the water is by two open sand filter beds for the removal of iron.

### *Hundon :*

A single borehole and pump delivers water to an underground reservoir for a gravitation supply to the village. Water is also pumped from these works to Stradishall R.A.F. Station.

Treatment of the water is by two mechanical sand filters for removal of iron.

Sample results show that a good and wholesome water is being supplied but is of a fairly hard degree, being a total of 27.0 degrees in grains per gallon.

Abstraction of water from this borehole during the 12 months ended 31st October, 1949, amounted to 17,264,500 gallons with a rest level in the bore at 88ft. below surface on that date.

Water is also drawn from the Hundon mains for filling up water tanks throughout the area.

### *Great Wratting :*

In connection with the General District Supply Scheme a borehole 24 inches in diameter and 300 feet deep was sunk at Great Wratting in 1946. A second and similar borehole was completed in June, 1949. Both bores being on the same site and about 12ft. apart. Tests proved that sufficient water was available to supply the whole District Area and the condition of the water was good with a hardness of 23.0 degrees in grains per gallon.

In view of the unsatisfactory supply of water from the Withersfield Pumping Station the Council decided to install a temporary pump at one of the Wratting bores and pump to the Withersfield Tower through a main laid during the year.

Water from this Tower now serves the parishes of Great and Little Bradley, Great and Little Thurlow and Withersfield. Pumping from the Withersfield Works has been abandoned. This temporary pump at the Wratting borehole will remain until permanent pumps are installed under a Contract now let.

### *General District Scheme :*

Work commenced in November, 1949, on the laying of the first length of main from Great Wratting borehole to the site of the proposed Reservoir near Hundon Hall. The total length of main to be laid under this scheme is approximately 80 miles, and this, together with the erection of a reservoir and water tower, will afford a supply of water to all Parishes. A general outline of the scheme as proposed was given in my 1947 report.

### *WATER TANKS :*

Tanks ranging in size from 200 to 500 gallons are supplied throughout the area and filled with water from the Hundon mains. At the end of the year there were 86 such tanks positioned in 19 Parishes. The majority of these tanks will not be necessary when the District Water Scheme becomes operative.



### *PUMPS and WELLS :*

There are 32 of these in the area and, as reported in 1947, only nine produce water fit for drinking purposes. In cases of unfit wells notices are displayed advising people to boil the water before drinking.

In addition to the above supplies water is supplied from the Haverhill U.D.C. mains to 11 houses in the Withersfield Parish and to 17 houses in the Parish of Little Wratting. There are also a number of houses throughout the area supplied with water from nearby private boreholes by permission of the owners.

The largest private supply, giving drinking water to approximately 90 families, is at Stoke-by-Clare, where the supply is obtained from waterworks in the ownership of Stoke College Estate.

### *DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE :*

No major works have been installed during the year.

A proposal for laying down sewers in the Parishes of Clare and Cavendish was the subject of a public Inquiry held at Clare in September. The scheme was outlined in my last report, but no sanction to commence had been given by the end of the year.

Schemes for providing sewers and sewage disposal works have been prepared for submission to the Ministry of Health for the following parishes :—

Stoke-by-Clare, Withersfield, Kedington, Cowlinge, Hundon, Great Bradley, Lidgate, Wickhambrook (part).

It is hoped that all these schemes will be carried out in the near future, otherwise the majority of ditches will be turned into open sewers following the installation of water provided by your General District Scheme.

There are now 56 sewage tanks on Council house estates cleaned out every six months by Contract and when sewerage schemes are installed in the 10 Parishes referred to previously, 27 of these tanks will be abandoned; together with a tank at Clare which accepts sewage from Nethergate, part of High Street and Station Road.

### *PUBLIC CLEANSING and REFUSE DISPOSAL :*

The Council have one Refuse Collecting Vehicle run by a Driver and Filler. Both employees carry out work of "filling" and both hold a driving licence. Collections from dust bins take place once every fortnight in 14 parishes and once per month in 10 parishes.

Collection is confined to bin refuse and is available for 94 per cent. of occupied houses within the area.



The vehicle also collects from Pail Closets in Clare and Cavendish villages. Collection takes place after 10 p.m. once every fortnight.

Two refuse tips are at present in use at Clare and Wickhambrook.

The Council hold a stock of dust bins for sale to persons requiring these and, during the year, 50 bins were delivered to houses within the area.

#### *RODENT CONTROL:*

Your Rodent Operator retired from the service of the Council towards the end of the year. No further appointment was made, pending the coming into operation in 1950 of the "Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949."

#### *RIVERS and STREAMS:*

The streams drain the higher boulder clay area into the valley of the River Stour which runs through the district from North to South and then, turning Eastwards, forms its Southern boundary. The parishes situated along the course of the river are Great and Little Bradley, Little Thurlow, Great Thurlow, Great Wratting, Kedington, Wixoe, Stoke-by-Clare, Clare and Cavendish and the river receives pollution from all of them. The greatest nuisance, however, is at Clare. It is estimated that the total population of these villages is about 4,000 persons.

#### *SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:*

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area:—

Housing Matters	...	...	...	...	...	1,118
Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	167
Disinfestation and Infectious Diseases	..	...	...	...	...	11
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	43
Shops and Stores	...	...	...	...	...	32
Scavenging and Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	281
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	512
Verminous Premises and Persons	...	...	...	...	...	68
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	54
Meat and other foods	...	...	...	...	...	47
Other	...	...	...	...	...	59

#### *SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED:*

	Defects			
	Informal.		Remedied.	
Dwelling House (structural defects)	...	39	...	28
Nuisance (not included above)	...	13	...	12
Water Supplies	...	—	...	—
Drainage (house)	...	7	...	6
Privies, Ash-pits and Cesspools	...	—	...	—
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	—	...	—

## FACTORIES:

### *Inspections made:*

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act 1937 are enforced by the Council. (Cleanliness, Overcrowding, Tem- perature, Ventilation, Drainage of Floors) ... ..	15	24	3
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced (Sanitary Conveniences) ... ..	24	44	—
Totals ... ..	39	68	3

### *Defects:*

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (Section 4) ... ..	2	2
Drainage of Floors (Section 6) ... ..	3	3
Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	1	1
Totals ... ..	6	6

The type of factories include Agricultural Engineering, Grist Mills, and Egg Packing Stations.

There were no prosecutions against occupiers for non-compliance with the Act.

39 Factories appear on the Register.

## HOUSING:

### *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:*

1 (1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts). ... ..	324
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose. ...	395
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	324
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose. ...	395
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ... ..	46
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... ..	187

2	Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers . . . . .	34
3	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
	(a) Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(a) Section 9 . . . . .	5
	(b) Section 11 . . . . .	8
	(c) Section 12 . . . . .	Nil.
	(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied . . . . .	2
	(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
	(a) By owners . . . . .	—
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. . . . .	—

## INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD :

### Milk Supply :

Total number of farms on the Register . . . . .	80
Not at present producing milk . . . . .	16
Accredited Milk Producers . . . . .	6
T.T. producers . . . . .	7
Retail premises registered . . . . .	5

### Pasteurised licences in force :

Supplementary . . . . .	1
Dealer . . . . .	1

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 came into operation in October. These transferred the the enforcement of Regulations on Dairy Farms (except in so far as they relate to diseases communicable to man) to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

### Meat and other Foods :

Licensed slaughter-houses used for occasional slaughtering only... . . . .	10
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Meat is distributed to the different butchers from a central slaughter-house situated in an adjoining area.

There are two Registered Knackers' Yards one at Clare and the other at Ousden.

### *Unsound Food :*

The following amounts of foodstuffs unfit for human consumption have been dealt with :—

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	330 lbs.
Tinned Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	174 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	706 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	89 lbs.
Peas	...	..	...	...	...	...	1658 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	37 lbs.

### *Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.*

There are 22 licensed slaughtermen in the area. Licences are granted for a period of 12 months and the licensing fee is 1/-.

### *Fried Fish Shops*

There are two in the district, one at Clare and one at Cavendish. That at Cavendish was licensed during the year.

### *Ice Cream Premises*

No ice cream is manufactured in the area.

### *Infectious Disease*

Four houses have been fumigated following removal to hospital of persons suffering from infectious diseases.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Apart from two cases of poliomyelitis, one fatal, there has been no incidence of any major notifiable infectious diseases. Measles and whooping cough became notifiable in 1939 and account for the majority of the notifications. Details are given in the following table :—

# Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	AT AGES—YEARS.												Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—		
Poliomyelitis .. ..	2									1		1		2	1
Scarlet Fever .. ..	9			1	2	1	5							4	—
Erysipelas .. ..	2								2					—	—
Measles .. ..	146	7	12	6	11	16	79	5	4	2	4			—	—
Whooping Cough ..	36		4	7	8	6	6	2	1	2				—	—
Pneumonia .. ..	2					1					1			—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1									1				—	—
TOTALS .. ..	198	7	16	14	21	24	90	7	7	6	5	1	—	4	8

# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1949

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F.
0								
1								
5								
15	1	1						
25	1							
35	2							
45	1							
55								
65 and upwards		1						
Totals ..	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.





